BENGALURU, MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 22 | Humidity 38% Mostly cloudy Sensex 73,319 | Nifty 22,713 | Gold 1,49,650 | Silver 2,32,600 | Dollar 92.67 | Euro 107.28 | GBP 122.36

## GAS TROUBLE

Noticeable uptick in interest in piped natural gas, even as companies start cancelling multiple LPG connections under one name

PAGE 5

## ROYAL TREAT

RCB fans rejoice as home team puts up dazzling batting show to rake up highest total in series so far, bowlers' lethal strike makes CSK fold

PAGE 9

### 57% increase in non-fatal injuries in K'taka factories over last five years points to weak enforcement of safety norms that is putting workers, most of whom are employed on contractual basis, in vulnerable positions

# FALLING OUT OF THE SAFETY NET

Dangerous gaps: Staff shortage at labour depts, shortcuts under production pressure

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Government data has revealed a sharp increase in workplace injuries and fatalities across registered factories in many states, including Karnataka. Experts have warned that the rise suggests that despite regulatory frameworks, risks in industrial workplaces, particularly factories, continue to pose serious threats to worker safety.

According to a recent report submitted to the Rajya Sabha in March by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Karnataka has seen a steady climb in non-fatal accidents over the last five years. The data, released in response to questions from MP Raghav Chadha, shows that non-fatal injuries in Karnataka's registered factories jumped from 215 in 2020 to 338 in 2024. This represents an increase of more than 57% in just five years.

Karnataka reported 45 fatal workplace injuries in 2020, which rose marginally to 46 in 2021, before dipping slightly to 43 in 2022. However, the numbers climbed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

**"Earlier, factory inspectors had the authority to conduct surprise visits, interact freely with workers, and assess real conditions inside factories. However, with the changes introduced under the new labour codes, these powers have been curtailed, creating gaps in implementation**

—Maitreya, AICCTU

# If smoking is injurious to health...

... Smoking counterfeit cigarettes is doubly so, warn police and doctors, as spurious products flood market to trap price-sensitive consumers

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Following the implementation of the new excise duty regime, cigarette prices have surged, with a pack of 10 sticks now costing at least ₹22–25 more than earlier. The sharp increase has not only hit smokers, but also translated into a spike in fake and counterfeit cigarettes being sold in Bengaluru. Recent police crackdowns have exposed large-scale rackets, with suppliers reportedly mixing fake products with genuine ones in local shops to deceive customers.

A recent bust at Kempegowda International Airport Police revealed an interstate gang operating through international routes. Police seized fake branded cigarettes worth approximately ₹50 lakh, which were allegedly imported from Cambodia and other foreign locations.

Officials warned that such counterfeit products not only cause financial losses to legitimate companies but also pose serious health risks.

Investigations reveal that small retail outlets are often targeted as points of sale, where unsuspecting customers are sold counterfeit products disguised as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Stage set

The Lewis Foundation of Classical Ballet is presenting A Tale of Dreams and Destinies based on a classic tale from One Thousand and One Nights, exploring the power of a dream, and the courage it takes to make it real, no matter who you are. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: April 11 (By invitation) and 12 (Open to all)**

### 02 Rhythm of rest

ArtFlute is presenting Choosing to Rest, an online exhibition that explores rest not as inactivity, but as presence - a moment of listening to the body, intuition, and inner rhythm in a world defined by speed and constant output. **Where: ArtFlute Online Gallery (www.artflute.com ); When: Until Apr 10**

### 03 Literary nook

Inspired by the quiet, hidden book-shops of Japanese fiction, The Paper Sanctuary transforms Atta Galatta into a re-treat for the tactile and the thoughtful. Visitors can browse the stalls, find a new favourite notebook, and enjoy a weekend dedicated to the art of writing and more.
**Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: April 11 and 12, 11 am**

### 04 Global experience

Elrow, a global music festival phenomenon, is being brought to Bengaluru for the first time by MR B Live Entertainment and Roy's Venture. With its iconic Neo Kaos Garden theme, the audience will experience surreal stage design, immersive décor, theatrical performers from Spain, and a curated international DJ lineup. **When: May 23, 3 pm**

### 05 Journey through art

The 9th edition of the Whitefield Art Collective (WAC) is being held under the theme 'Tomorrow, Altered!', featuring over 300 works across fine art, sculptures, installations, photography exhibitions, and curated artist showcases. **Where: VR Bengaluru, Whitefield Main Road; When: Until April 12**

# B'luru's peri-urban zones show rising pollution levels

## Study identifies high $SO_2$ levels linked to industrial activity and agricultural production in peri-urban areas, creating larger pollutant accumulations and greater health risks

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Urban areas in Bengaluru face traffic and industrial emissions driving high pollution, while peri-urban zones show elevated $SO_2$ from industry and agriculture, together shaping citywide air quality challenges

**Researchers highlight Bengaluru's air quality crisis as mix of core zones with concentrated emissions and fringe zones shaped by atmospheric conditions, stressing urgent need for detailed chemical pollutant analysis to pinpoint sources more accurately**

Industrial and agricultural activities in peri-urban areas of Bengaluru have caused high air pollution, especially higher levels of SO2 in the air, according to a study conducted by city-based researchers.

While both traffic and industrial sources have been found to impact air quality within Bengaluru city, with very high pollution levels during peak hours (7 am to 9 am and 5 pm to 8 pm), peri-urban areas experience moderate levels of pollution, but high levels of SO2 associated with both industrial activity and agricultural production.

Researchers from University of Visvesvaraya College of Engineering and Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering analysed air pollutants including PM2.5, PM10, NOx, $SO_2$, and CO, across six urban areas located inside the city boundary and four peri-urban areas outside the city limits. The urban areas were marked by high levels of traffic from vehicles and industries, whereas peri-urban locations studied have fewer human-related activities impacting levels of pollutants compared to urban sites.

The analysis conducted on air pollution data from January 2019 to December 2024 showed that while PM2.5 exposure is present throughout all ten locations, its concentration varied a lot in peri-urban areas.

"Particulate matter concentration is very weather-sensitive in peri-urban areas, which creates larger accumulations of pollutants, increasing the health risk associated with them when compared to their counterparts in urban areas," the study noted.

The stronger correlations in the peri-urban area suggest that peri-urban air quality is highly susceptible to atmospheric dispersion and transport processes, while the local emissions in the urban area suppress the relative effects of meteorological variability. On the other hand, urban air quality is primarily influenced by local emissions and therefore, meteorological factors had a lower impact on air quality.

Researchers say since Bengaluru's air quality crisis is characterised by core areas where high emissions occur and fringe areas where atmospheric conditions have significant effects on air quality, the need of the hour is to conduct detailed chemical analysis of pollutants to better identify the source of these pollutants. Moreover, expansion of high-resolution air quality monitoring networks into the urban and peri-urban areas of Bengaluru should also be considered to help with the implementation of sustainable urban development strategies as well as pollution reduction management strategies.

Air pollution spillage over to peri-urban areas from Bengaluru should also be mitigated through targeted intervention and the use of technologies such as congestion pricing, electric vehicle mandates, and real-time emission controls.

## Hoax threat triggers bomb scare on Bengaluru–Delhi flight

Following a bomb threat reported onboard, passengers travelling from Bengaluru to Delhi on an IndiGo flight underwent a tense situation on Saturday at 7 pm. As per the officials, the incident attracted an emergency evacuation at the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru. Authorities made quick efforts to evacuate the passengers, and shortly after, they confirmed that the threat was a mere hoax.

As per reports, a passenger came across a piece of tissue paper inside the aircraft's washroom which triggered the alert. As per the claim in the note on the tissue paper, it mentioned a prospective explosive device on board. Soon after its discovery, crew members onboard were alerted and they progressed to handling the situation, deploying standard safety procedures. Air Traffic Control authorities were alerted by the pilot quickly, and the process of safe deboarding commenced thereafter.

Bomb disposal squads and security agencies conducted a detailed sweep of the aircraft and found no suspicious objects or prospective explosive device as claimed in the note, after which they confirmed the hoax. Once declared safe to board, passengers resumed their journey and reached their destination. Authorities have launched an investigation to identify persons involved in crafting the fake bomb threat at the airport. — BMB

## Computer Science introduced in 100 PU colleges across K'taka

The state government has ordered the introduction of Computer Science streams in 100 selected government pre-university (PU) colleges with high student enrolment. To support this initiative, 1,200 computers (12 per college) have been procured and distributed, following a tender issued last September at a cost of Rs 8.17 crore. The School Education and Literacy Department has directed that financial and physical targets be closely monitored, with monthly updates uploaded to a digital system and progress reports submitted every three months. The total expenditure for the programme is around Rs 10 crore. A senior official said, "In addition, 74 Adarsha Vidyalayas are being upgraded into PU colleges offering commerce and science streams, as announced in the 2024–25 budget. An allocation of Rs 40.79 crore has been approved for this upgrade, at Rs 55.13 lakh per institution. Authorities have been instructed to upload detailed expenditure and procurement data on the PU department's website." — BMB

**Easter moments**

Many devotees gathered together, lighting candles and offering prayers, on the occasion of Easter at St Mary's Basilica Church

# Over 8,700 CCTV, ANPR cameras installed across Bengaluru, majority functional

## Officials attribute small number of non-functional cameras mainly to ongoing civic works, with several locations temporarily shut down due to infrastructure projects currently carried out by various civic agencies

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Bengaluru has over 8,700 surveillance cameras installed across the city, with the majority currently operational, according to data from the Traffic Police. The network includes both CCTV cameras and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems, aimed at monitoring traffic violations and improving enforcement.

During a recent reply in the session, Home Minister G Parameshwara said that a total of 7,500 CCTV cameras have been installed, of which 7,477 are functioning, while 23 remain non-operational. In addition, 1,254 ANPR cameras have been set up across key junctions and roads, with 1,233 currently working and 21 not in use.

The small number of non-functional cameras has been attributed mainly to ongoing civic works. "In several locations, cameras have been temporarily shut down due to infrastructure projects being carried out by various civic agencies," officials said.

**With thousands of cameras already in place and more expected, B'luru's surveillance system positions itself as key tool for improving compliance, managing growing traffic challenges, enhancing monitoring capacity and strengthening enforcement, says official**

These include road widening, utility works, and other development activities that have disrupted camera operations.

The surveillance network forms a key part of Bengaluru's traffic management system, enabling authorities to detect violations such as signal jumping, overspeeding, and lane indiscipline.

The ANPR cameras, in particular, help in automatically identifying vehicle numbers and issuing fines. Parameshara said that authorities have also put in place a system for the public to raise objections in cases of incorrect or duplicate traffic fines.

Citizens can submit complaints at the Traffic Police headquarters or through the Karnataka State Police mobile application, which allows online submission of grievances related to penalties.

Officials said all collected fines are credited under the designated government account head for traffic violations. A senior police official added, "With thousands of cameras already in place and more expected to be added, the city's surveillance system is being positioned as a key tool to improve compliance and manage Bengaluru's growing traffic challenges."

# Kingfisher pilots move HC seeking salary dues

Two former pilots of Kingfisher Airlines have moved the Karnataka High Court seeking payment of long-pending salary dues, claiming that they have been waiting for over a decade despite the completion of liquidation proceedings.

The petitions were heard by a single-judge bench of Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum, which directed the petitioners to serve notice on the official liquidator's counsel and listed the matter for further consideration.

The petitioners, both former captains with the airline, have stated that substantial portions of their salaries remained unpaid toward the end of their tenure.

One of them has claimed dues running into more than Rs 1 crore. They contend that although the official liquidator assessed and admitted these claims in recent years, the amounts have still not been disbursed, except for certain statutory payments like provident funds.

According to the plea, the liquidator had earlier indicated that funds realised from the airline's assets were yet to be released by the consortium of lending banks. However, the petition points out that significant recoveries have since been made, suggesting that adequate funds should now be available to settle employee claims.

Highlighting this aspect, the petition states, "If the interest on these amounts (salary due) is ignored for a moment, then the amount is sufficient to service the entire principal amounts due to the workmen and secured creditors."

The petitioners have urged the High Court to direct the official liquidator to release the admitted amounts without further delay. **BMB**

# High roads: B-SMILE work wipes smile off citizens' faces

## Delayed infrastructure upgrade turns into nightmare as uneven road levels, dust pollution, and poor coordination hit everyday life on Lazar Road

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**Traders suffer declining income, elderly struggle with access, debris fills surroundings, while civic agency faces criticism over delays, execution flaws, and lack of accountability**

Residents on Lazar Road have been facing numerous problems due to delays in completing the ongoing white-topping work undertaken by Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE). They say they do not have the luxury of smiling due to the apathy and negligence of the B-SMILE authorities.

Residents were initially excited when B-SMILE took up the white-topping of Lazar Road a few months ago, as the road had been in a poor condition for more than a year. However, they complain that a lack of coordination and the absence of proper planning have been hindering the progress of the work.

With the white-topping of the road, the height of the road surface has increased and is now higher than the residential gate level. Residents are unable to take out two-wheelers from their homes due to the increased height of the road surface. "I am of the opinion that this road does not require white-topping. The engineer advised me to increase the gate height. It is not easy for me to do so," said Margaret Mutunayagam, a resident.

Expressing concern over the delay in completing the ongoing work, Nusrath Baig, a senior citizen, said that residents have been suffering due to the negligence of the contractor and the B-SMILE engineer. "There are many senior citizens in this layout, and the delay is causing considerable inconvenience. There was no problem with the footpath. I do not know why the contractor removed the existing footpath, which was in good condition," Baig added.

There are several shops on Lazar Road, and the delay has already impacted business. "I am finding it difficult to pay rent for the past three months. Most senior citizens are not able to enter the shop to have their hair cut," said Krishna Murthy of New Castle Hair Dress.

The delay has also affected senior citizens. "I am not happy with the delay. The ongoing work generates a lot of dust. I want the authorities to complete the work as soon as possible," said Madan Gopal, a senior citizen. Srividya, another resident, said that the ongoing developmental works are causing significant problems. "One can imagine the plight of senior citizens who need medical care during emergencies," she said.

**LEFT: The condition of the footpath before white-topping work is taken up on Lazar Road; RIGHT: Now, the condition of the footpath on Lazar Road**

Lazar Layout Residents Association president Vincent Sunder said the work is being carried out in a haphazard manner without proper supervision. "It will be difficult for senior citizens to come out of their homes during medical emergencies. There has been no response from the authorities concerned despite follow-up by residents," he said.

Meanwhile, B-SMILE engineer Naveen Gowda said the organisation will bear the cost of increasing the height of residential gate levels of buildings along Lazar Road.

# Flyover boost to ease Mysuru Road blues

## ₹810 crore elevated corridor plan promises faster commutes, smoother junction crossings, and relief for thousands battling gridlock on a crucial west Bengaluru route

In a major push to address chronic traffic congestion along Mysuru Road, the Karnataka government has proposed an ambitious infrastructure upgrade, including the extension of the existing flyover (ending at Sirsi Circle) up to the BHEL junction. With an estimated cost of ₹810 crore, the project aims to significantly decongest one of Bengaluru's busiest arterial stretches, particularly between Chamarajapet and Kengeri. The plan involves extending the current Balagangadharanatha Swamiji Flyover, which presently ends at Sirsi Circle, by nearly 4 km to create a seamless elevated corridor. The Detailed Project Report has been prepared and is currently under administrative review.

Sources said the stretch between Chamarajapet and Mysuru Road has long been a traffic bottleneck, with vehicle volumes steadily rising over the years. The proposed flyover extension is expected to benefit not only long-distance travellers heading towards Mysuru, but also daily commuters travelling to and from suburbs such as Kengeri and surrounding areas. Localities including Satellite Bus Stand, Sirsi Circle, Gali Anjaneya Temple, Bapujinagar, Srinagar, Girinagar and Byatarayanapura are likely to see smoother traffic flow and reduced travel delays. Once completed, commuters will be able to travel directly on an elevated stretch from Town Hall up to the BHEL–Kengeri junction, bypassing multiple choke points.

Kavya Devaraj, a college student, said: "Despite the Bengaluru–Mysuru Expressway reducing travel time between Mysuru and Kengeri to around 90 minutes, congestion within city limits remains a major concern. Currently, it takes nearly 50–55 minutes to cover just 19 km from Kengeri to Majestic due to heavy traffic." Traffic authorities said peak-hour congestion near key junctions such as Satellite Bus Stand, Kasturba Nagar and Gali Anjaneya Temple often leads to severe delays, sometimes stretching to hours. Poorly maintained service roads and increasing vehicular density have further worsened the commuting experience, making daily travel stressful for thousands of motorists.

Alongside the flyover extension, the government is also working on additional infrastructure improvements along the Mysuru Road corridor. A cloverleaf flyover project near Rajarajeshwari Nagar, beyond Nayandahalli junction, is currently in progress, with land acquisition underway. Other road development works are also being undertaken to improve connectivity and ease traffic movement across adjoining areas. These combined efforts are aimed at creating a more efficient and integrated transport network in West Bengaluru.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, responding in the Legislative Council, confirmed that feasibility studies have been conducted over the past two years to address congestion along the Chamarajapet–Mysuru Road stretch. The cost estimate, including land acquisition, has been finalised, and the proposal is now under consideration for administrative approval. For thousands of commuters who face daily gridlock on this route, the proposed flyover extension offers a long-awaited solution. If implemented on schedule, the project is expected to transform mobility in the region and bring much-needed relief to one of the city's most congested corridors. — BMB

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9591233247
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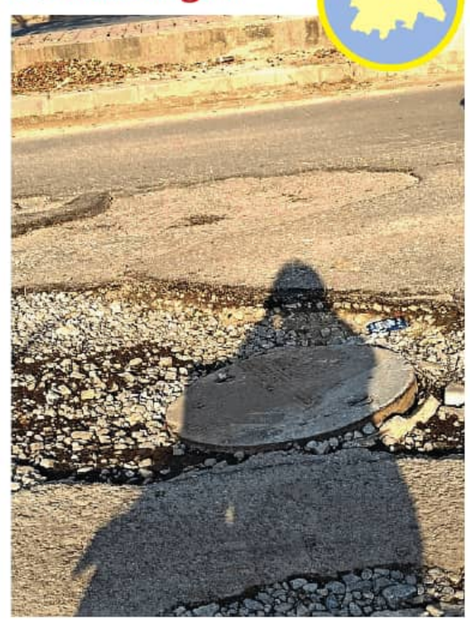
### Road hazard
**Kasturi Nagar**



A pothole on the Kasturi Nagar service road near the bus stand along the ORR is posing a serious risk to commuters.

### Rapid decay
**Kalyan Nagar**

The stretch near Pai International, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, is rapidly deteriorating.

### Waste menace
**Upparpet**

Dry waste remains uncleared on Upparpet footpaths near the station, creating a fire hazard and health risk, despite repeated complaints.

# With cooking gas concerns mounting, consumers turn to PNG

**There has been clear increase in demand for PNG connections, with trend indicating growing consumer inclination across both residential and commercial segments, says official from GAIL (India) Limited**

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Bengaluru is witnessing a steady rise in the adoption of Piped Natural Gas (PNG), as concerns over Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) availability prompt households and commercial establishments to explore more reliable alternatives. Officials from GAIL (India) Limited confirm a noticeable uptick in interest, particularly across the city's urban pockets.

Speaking to BM, an official from GAIL stated that the recent concerns around LPG availability have led to a growing shift in consumer preference. "We are currently catering to over 3 lakh domestic PNG consumers in the city and in recent weeks, we have observed a clear increase in demand for new PNG connections. While consolidated monthly figures will provide a more precise picture, the trend indicates growing consumer inclination toward PNG across both residential and commercial segments," the official noted.

The rise in demand comes at a time when several parts of Bengaluru have reported delays in LPG cylinder deliveries and several gas stations also have pointed out delayed stock. Residents also disclosed extended waiting periods, disrupted booking cycles, and uncertainty in supply timelines. While oil marketing companies have maintained that supplies are being streamlined, the temporary disruption has made many consumers to consider alternatives like PNG that offer uninterrupted access.

Recent concerns around LPG availability have led to a growing shift in consumer preference

**Well-balanced urban energy ecosystem avoids reliance on single fuel source, with rising PNG adoption diversifying supply, equipping cities to manage fluctuations and meet evolving energy needs, says official**

Highlighting the broader energy perspective, the official emphasised the need for diversification. "A well-balanced urban energy ecosystem should not rely on a single source of fuel. Increasing PNG adoption contributes to diversification, ensuring that cities are better equipped to manage supply fluctuations and evolving energy needs. This transition is not merely reactive but also aligns with long-term sustainability and reliability goals," he said.

On the operational front, PNG is increasingly being seen as a convenient option. "One of the key benefits of PNG is uninterrupted availability. Consumers no longer have to deal with the uncertainties of booking cycles or delivery delays. Additionally, from a safety standpoint, PNG is lighter than air, which enhances its safety profile in domestic and commercial usage," the official added.

Addressing concerns around affordability, he clarified that PNG is not positioned as a cheaper substitute but as a dependable one. "While pricing remains comparable to LPG, the current focus is on ensuring stable and accessible energy supply. PNG should be viewed in terms of convenience, reliability and long-term value rather than direct price competition," he said.

Reassuring citizens amid ongoing concerns, the official urged calm. "The current situation is under control and there is no need for panic. All stakeholders are working diligently to maintain supply continuity and minimise disruptions. As responsible citizens, it is important to avoid panic reactions and trust that systems are in place to ensure energy availability and consumer comfort," he added.

K Ravi, Senior Vice President, Bangalore Chamber of Industry & Commerce (BCIC), said that industries, hotels and food-processing units need a PNG-ready site within GAIL's network. He noted that GAIL says a switch from LPG to PNG can be done in about two months once pipeline availability is confirmed. "Due to the recent mandate to switch from LPG to PNG, some states have accelerated this process. In some states for instance, road-cutting permissions for PNG lines are being expedited within 24 hours until June 30, 2026, and road restoration charges have been waived in some cases. I think the municipal or panchayat authorities in Karnataka should also give approvals for laying gas pipes on a fast track basis so that industries depending on LPG can switch over to PNG and thereby there is no stoppage of production," he said.

## Duplicate LPG connections cancelled, customers left struggling

Oil marketing companies have begun abruptly cancelling multiple domestic cooking gas (LPG) connections registered under a single individual's name, causing widespread distress among consumers who were unaware of the move and are now struggling to obtain cylinders. Earlier, individuals were allowed to hold LPG connections from up to three public sector companies—HPCL, BPCL, and IOCL—provided they completed KYC formalities and linked their PAN numbers. Subsequently, one of the duplicate connections was deactivated in cases where customers held more than one. However, many consumers who retained two connections but actively used only one, leaving the other inactive without bookings, have now discovered that both connections have been suspended when attempting to place orders.

The disruption in LPG supply amid ongoing conflicts in West Asia has increased pressure on distribution systems, prompting companies to tighten regulations. Following earlier steps to cancel LPG connections of households already supplied with piped natural gas (PNG), authorities have now extended the crackdown to individuals holding multiple LPG connections. Consumers with connections from different companies have been advised to immediately submit updated KYC documents to retain a valid connection and obtain confirmation from agencies regarding any cancelled accounts. Those whose connections have already been terminated can file complaints with their respective agencies and submit necessary documents to restore one active connection. Additionally, customers may secure a surrender certificate after returning cylinders and regulators from one provider and submit it to another agency to reinstate service. Details can also be updated through the Aadhaar Face RD app, and further assistance is available via the helpline number 1800 2333 555. **–BMB**


# From Nothing to Notable: The Inspiring Journey of Gopalakrishna Barki

Arriving in Bengaluru with nothing but dreams, Gopalakrishna Barki began his journey alone, determined to build a better future. Through relentless hard work, he first partnered with associates to start a hotel business and later went on to establish multiple hotels of his own. Today, he stands as a compassionate entrepreneur who has created employment opportunities for hundreds, entrusting responsibilities to reliable individuals and helping them grow alongside him.

## Early Struggles

Hailing from Ranbennur, Gopalakrishna Barki studied only up to Class 7. Losing his father Basappa Barki at a young age, he was forced to begin working at just 15 due to severe financial hardship. He supported his family by working in Ranebennur, selling pani puri, before eventually moving to Bengaluru in search of better opportunities, leaving his mother Basamma behind in the village.

## Turning Point

After arriving in Bengaluru in 2004, he began working under Thimmanna Hosur in Rajajinagar. Five years later, in 2009, he partnered with Ashok Hosur to launch Santrupti Uttara Karnataka Food Store in Koramangala 8th Block, marking a key milestone in his entrepreneurial journey.

Gopalakrishna Barki and Reshma Gopalakrishna Barki were honoured with the VK-BM Food and NightLife Award 2025-26

## Personal Journey

During this time, he decided to marry Reshma from Rajajinagar. Despite opposition from their families, the couple got married in Dharmasthala in 2014. They later reconciled with their families after the birth of their son. Reshma, a BSc Computer Science graduate, worked in a company for two years before joining her husband in managing the business. The couple has a son, Ashith, and a daughter, Ashchita.

## Business Expansion

In 2014, Gopalakrishna Barki stepped out of his earlier partnership and went on to establish four outlets under the name Santrupti Uttara Karnataka Food Store. He also empowered his employees by handing over operational responsibilities, enabling them to earn independently and grow within the business ecosystem.

## Current Success

Currently, he successfully runs two Santrupti Uttara Karnataka hotels. The outlet in Koramangala is widely recognised as one of the best North Karnataka cuisine destinations and is noted as the first of its kind in the 7th Block. Another branch was opened in Wilson Garden, opposite the police station.

## Signature Offerings

The restaurant is known for offering authentic North Karnataka cuisine at affordable prices, including jowar rotti meals, a variety of holige, girmit mirchi, mandakki oggarane, avalakki, different chutney powders, pickles, traditional sweets like Belagavi kunda and karadantu, among others. Catering services for weddings and events are also available. The core focus remains on serving healthy and delicious food to customers.

**Service Timings**

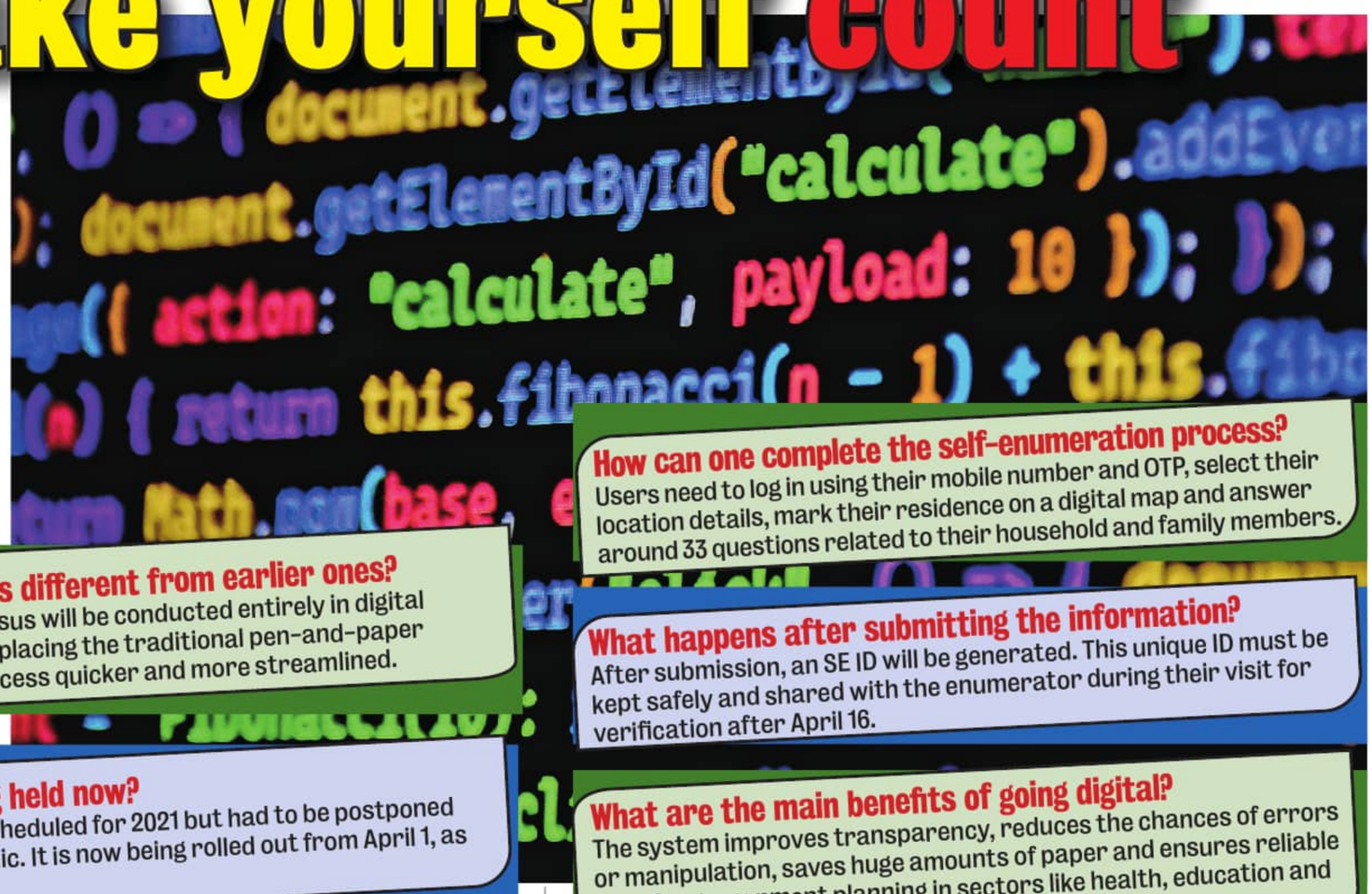
- **Breakfast:** 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM
- **Lunch:** 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM
- **Snacks:** 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
- **Dinner:** 7:00 PM to 10:30 PM
- Services are also available on **Swiggy** and **Zomato.**

**Santrupti Uttara Karnataka Food Store**
**214, 1st A Main Road, Near Bosch Back Gate, 7th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560095**

BM SIMPLY PUT

## Fill your own details for Digital Census 2026 is all about faster results, smarter governance

# Make yourself count



India is set to witness a major shift in data collection with its first-ever fully digital census starting in April. Citizens can now take an active role by submitting their own household details online. The move promises faster results, better accuracy and more efficient policy planning. — BMB

### What makes this census different from earlier ones?
This is the first time the census will be conducted entirely in digital mode using a mobile app, replacing the traditional pen-and-paper method and making the process quicker and more streamlined.

### Why is the census being held now?
The census was originally scheduled for 2021 but had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now being rolled out from April 1, as part of the new schedule.

### How will the digital system improve the process?
Unlike earlier methods that required manual data collection and scanning, the new system uploads information directly to central servers, enabling faster processing, analysis and publication of results.

### Can citizens really fill in their own census data?
Yes, this is a key feature. Citizens can log in to the official portal and self-enumerate by entering details of their household, reducing dependency on field enumerators and saving time during verification.

### How can one complete the self-enumeration process?
Users need to log in using their mobile number and OTP, select their location details, mark their residence on a digital map and answer around 33 questions related to their household and family members.

### What happens after submitting the information?
After submission, an SE ID will be generated. This unique ID must be kept safely and shared with the enumerator during their visit for verification after April 16.

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### What are the main benefits of going digital?
The system improves transparency, reduces the chances of errors or manipulation, saves huge amounts of paper and ensures reliable data for government planning in sectors like health, education and infrastructure.

### Is the census platform accessible to all citizens?
Yes, the application is available in around 16 major Indian languages, making it easier for people across different regions to participate accurately.

### How is location data captured accurately?
Geo-referencing technology is used to precisely map each household, ensuring better identification of areas such as wards, villages and urban pockets.

### How will the collected data be used?
The data will help update the National Population Register and assist the government in targeting welfare schemes more effectively to eligible beneficiaries.

### What are the next stages of the census?
After the initial digital data collection and verification phase, the final stage of the census is scheduled for February 2027.

## MIRRORLIGHTS

### Newspapers on the move
Basavanagudi Newspaper Distributors Association distributed 35 electric scooters to daily newspaper vendors on behalf of the association. President Bommegowda, leader Thimmegowda, other officials, members, and the head of Hero Vida electric scooter were present at the event.

### Animal attacks leave 53 dead

Human–wildlife conflict continues to pose a serious and unrelenting challenge in Karnataka, with 53 people losing their lives to wild animal attacks during the 2025–26 financial year, according to data from the State Forest Department. The scale of the crisis is evident in Kodagu, a major wildlife region, which recorded the highest number of fatalities at 12. Chamarajanagar and neighbouring Mysuru districts reported nine deaths each, followed by Chikkamagaluru with six, Hassan and Dakshina Kannada with four each, and Ramanagara (Bengaluru South), also accounting for four deaths. Additional casualties were reported in Shivamogga, Vijayapura, Vijayanagara, Tumakuru, and Haveri, highlighting the widespread nature of the issue across forested and semi-forested regions. Beyond fatalities, the impact of wildlife encounters has been severe and long-lasting for many survivors. In the same period, five individuals were left permanently disabled and 13 partially disabled due to wild animal attacks, while as many as 340 people sustained injuries. — BMB

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

### Saving child

In a heartwarming act of humanity, a state transport bus was driven directly into hospital premises on Saturday to ensure urgent treatment for a critically ill child. The incident occurred when a mother noticed her child's condition worsening mid-journey. Seeing her distress, conductor Arjun alerted driver Nithin, who promptly diverted the KSRTC bus to the hospital. Grateful for their timely action, the child's mother thanked the staff, while hospital authorities and passengers praised the crew's presence of mind and compassion.

### Ticket rush
Even as the public queued up at gas agencies and auto LPG stations amid shortages linked to global tensions, a contrasting scene unfolded at Vidhana Soudha, where aides of MLAs stood in long lines to collect IPL tickets. With the high-voltage match between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Chennai Super Kings scheduled for Sunday at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, each MLA was allotted three complimentary VIP tickets.

### Lucky ride
A stalled scooter, a missed withdrawal, and an unexpected win, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah shared a slice of his early political journey with a touch of humour. Recalling the 1983 elections, he said he had planned to withdraw his nomination after missing out on a party ticket. "My friend set out to file the withdrawal, but his scooter broke down. By the time it restarted, it was 3 pm and the deadline had passed. I stayed in the fray and won by 3,000 votes," he said, calling it a twist of fate rather than belief in luck.
He added that opportunities followed without deliberate effort. After supporting Ramakrishna Hegde to become Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah was made chairman of the Kannada Kaval Samiti and later inducted as Minister of State for Sericulture in 1984. "I never believed in political 'yoga'. I simply accepted what came my way," he said, reflecting on how an accidental delay changed the course of his career.

### Sharp swipe
From being labelled an addict of card games to proving critics wrong, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recalled how sharp criticism shaped his political journey. He said journalist P Lankesh once wrote a scathing piece after he refused to contest against the Mysuru royal family candidate in a parliamentary election, even mocking his past as a lawyer who played cards. The criticism did not stop there. When Siddaramaiah became Finance Minister in 1994, another article questioned his capability, stating that "one who cannot even count 100 sheep is now the state's Finance Minister." Siddaramaiah said those remarks became a turning point rather than a setback. "I took it as a challenge," he noted, adding that the criticism pushed him to perform and eventually present a record 17 state budgets. — Sridhar Vivan

# Transforming Smiles with Excellence: Dr Trivikram Rao Leads the Way in Modern Dentistry

In the evolving field of dental care, Dr Trivikram Rao stands out as a name synonymous with trust, innovation and excellence. With over 24 years of dedicated experience, he has built a strong reputation in cosmetic dentistry, dental implants and orthodontics, offering solutions that combine advanced science with aesthetic precision.

## Global Journey

Graduating from Bangalore University in 2000, Dr Rao pursued international fellowships in the United Kingdom and from the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (USA) in 2006. He further enhanced his expertise with a postgraduate degree in cosmetic dentistry from Manipal College of Dental Sciences. This global exposure reflects in his approach, bringing international standards to everyday dental care.

## Smile Design

Specialising in smile makeovers, Dr Rao offers treatments such as composite veneers, porcelain veneers and crowns. His work focuses on creating natural, confident smiles tailored to each individual. Every treatment is carefully planned to ensure both functionality and visual appeal.

## Elite Trust

Dr Rao's commitment to quality has earned the trust of not just thousands of patients, but also well-known personalities including actors, musicians, international cricketers, IAS officers and political leaders. His clinic is known for consistent results and patient satisfaction.

## Social Service

Through the initiative 'Mandahaasa', Dr Rao extends dental care to underprivileged communities. His work has been appreciated by leaders like Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya and Sri Sri Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji of Sri Adichunchanagiri Mutt.

## Modern Clinic

Located in Basavanagudi, the clinic spans over 3,000 sq ft and is equipped with advanced technology and a skilled team. The facility is designed to provide comfortable and efficient dental care. With experience, innovation and a patient-first approach, Dr Trivikram Rao continues to redefine dental care, one confident smile at a time.

### Key Milestones

**Experience:** 25,000+ patients treated since 2002

**Procedures:** 7,500+ smile makeovers and 5,000+ implants completed

**Recognition:** Ranked among Bengaluru's Top 5 dental clinics for 10 consecutive years by Times Health Survey

**Award:** Achiever Cosmetic Dentist Award (2019)

Clear Vision

"At the heart of our work is the happiness of our patients. Adopting modern technology and advanced methods has driven our growth," says Dr Trivikram Rao.

**Contact Details**
**Dr Trivikram's All Styles**
No. 64, Shankarmutt Main Road,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru – 560004
Phone: +91 9845085230 / 7975192509

# Precision Surgery, Faster Recovery: Dr Sunil Kini Redefines Orthopaedic Excellence

In the field of orthopaedics and robotic surgery, Dr Sunil Gurupur Kini has emerged as a trusted expert known for precision, innovation and patient-focused care. As the Head and Senior Consultant in Orthopaedics and Robotic Surgery at Manipal Hospitals, he brings global expertise to advanced surgical treatments in India.

## Surgical Expertise

Dr Kini is among the very few specialists in Karnataka skilled in advanced arthroscopy procedures. With an impressive track record of over 2,000 joint surgeries and 1,500 successful arthroscopic procedures, he has consistently delivered excellent outcomes.

**Dr Sunil Gurupur Kini,**
**Head and Senior Consultant in Orthopaedics and Robotic Surgery at Manipal Hospitals**

His areas of expertise include knee and ligament reconstruction, sports injury management, joint replacement, cartilage restoration (ACI therapy), shoulder and elbow replacement, meniscal surgeries and complex trauma care.

## Global Credentials

A highly qualified professional, Dr Kini holds MBBS, MS (Orthopaedics) and DNB (Orthopaedics), along with prestigious international recognitions such as MRCS from the Royal Colleges in the United Kingdom and MCh (Master of Surgery). He is also a member of the National Academy of Medical Sciences and holds a specialised diploma from Belgium.

His training and fellowships across leading institutions in the United Kingdom, Sydney, Germany and Singapore have shaped his advanced surgical approach, especially in knee, spine and joint replacement procedures.

## Robotic Advantage

Robotic-assisted joint replacement has become a major advancement in orthopaedic care. According to Dr Kini, this technology allows surgeons to perform procedures with enhanced accuracy, leading to better outcomes and quicker recovery for patients. The process involves feeding detailed data about the patient's joint structure and ligament balance into a robotic system. Based on this, the surgeon precisely plans and positions the implant with robotic assistance, ensuring optimal alignment and function.

## Smart Technology

Before knee replacement surgery, a specialised CT scan is conducted to create a 3D model of the joint, bones and surrounding tissues. This enables accurate planning and execution during surgery. The robotic system uses advanced haptic technology, allowing surgeons to operate within defined boundaries, ensuring only the damaged area is treated without affecting surrounding tissues.

With a strong emphasis on precision and recovery, Dr Kini's approach ensures patients experience safer procedures and improved quality of life. His expertise in robotic-assisted surgeries continues to set new benchmarks in orthopaedic treatment.

### Key Benefits

- Reduced pain after surgery
- Minimal dependence on painkillers
- Faster return to daily activities
- More natural joint movement and alignment
- Patient Focus

**Contact Details**
**MAK Speciality Health Centre**
118, 6B, Haralur Road, Bengaluru – 560102
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**Manipal Hospitals**
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Bengaluru – 560017
Phone: +91 8025023580

Website: drsunilkini.in
Email: sunil.kini@manipalhospitals.com

## Drunken teen rams SUV into bike, killing 19-year-old

A 19-year-old, identified as Prateek, died after a speeding SUV driven by a drunk teenager allegedly rammed into his bike.

According to police officials, the incident took place on 10th Main Road in Maruthinagar, Malleshpalya at around 11 pm on Friday.

As per the report, Prateek was on his way home when the crash happened. He succumbed to serious head injuries and died on the spot. Traffic officials from JB Nagar conducted a breathalyser test on the accused, identified as Arpith, aged 19, and found him to be under the influence of alcohol.

A case of hit-and-run and death has been filed. Officials have seized the car and have detained the teen for a medical examination. **BMB**

## Drunken dance on bike sparks safety alarm

A shocking incident caught on dashcam shows a woman recklessly stunting while riding on a Rapido bike taxi. The woman was seen not wearing a helmet and was seated in an unsafe manner, holding a beer in her hand, threatening her life and the lives of others, in a video posted on X. The incident took place in Banashankari towards BTM Layout, and the act continued for several kilometres.

Several eyewitness accounts noted that the woman was barefoot, waving her arms in the air, almost dancing as if in a trance. The police have enquired about the woman and the incident. Officials are making attempts to propose legal charges on the duo for disrupting night traffic by indulging in unsafe practices and not following traffic rules. **BMB**

# Time for a factory reset

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

again to 53 in 2023 and further to 60 in 2024, marking the highest in the five-year period.

This indicates a clear upward trend in fatal accidents, with fatalities increasing by over 30% from 2020 to 2024.

Speaking about the lack of enforcement, Maitreya, Chief Secretary, Karnataka, All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU), said, "Safety inspections must be made mandatory to ensure that prescribed safety measures are actually implemented on the ground. While the law clearly lays down these requirements, enforcement has weakened over time. Earlier, factory inspectors had the authority to conduct surprise visits, interact freely with workers, and assess real conditions inside factories. However, with the changes introduced under the new labour codes, these powers have been curtailed, creating gaps in implementation. In sectors like mining, which fall under the Central Government, the inspection mechanism has further weakened in recent years. The inability to carry out surprise inspections comes at a serious cost, often the lives of workers."

She also pointed out that the nature of the workforce has shifted significantly.

"A large number of workers are now employed on a contractual basis, making them more vulnerable. Even when safety hazards exist, many hesitate to raise concerns due to fear of losing their jobs. At the same time, labour departments remain severely understaffed, with very few factory inspectors tasked with overseeing a large number of units. This combination of reduced enforcement powers, staffing shortages, and
a vulnerable workforce has contributed to a rise in industrial accidents. The government must strengthen enforcement mechanisms, and workers must be empowered to report unsafe conditions without fear."

G Prakash, Chairman, Manufacturing expert committee, BCIC, noted that current training and safety awareness programs in Indian manufacturing are inconsistent and often compliance-driven rather than capability-driven. "While large organisations have structured induction and periodic safety sessions, MSMEs that form the backbone of the sector largely rely on informal, on-the-job learning.The key gap is behavioural ownership. Workers are trained on "what to do," but not always on "why it matters", leading to shortcuts under production pressure. Improvements needed are a shift from one-time training to continuous, shop-floor-based micro-learning; use of visual SOPs, simulations, and real incident case studies. There is also a need to link safety to team-level accountability and incentives, not just audits and stronger focus on supervisor capability, as they influence daily behaviour more than policies."

The government's role should evolve from policing to enabling safe ecosystems, he added, pointing out that more frequent inspections alone may not help unless they are risk-based and data-driven. "Crucial tax benefits, certification advantages, or preferential treatment must be given to companies with strong safety records," said Prakash.

States such as Gujarat and Maharashtra consistently record some of the highest fatal and non-fatal injuries in registered factories. Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have also reported significant figures, particularly in non-fatal injuries.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment noted that the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH & WC) Code, 2020 implemented from November 21, 2025 — aims to regulate safety, health, and working conditions across sectors including factories, construction, mining, and transport.

The law mandates the Centre to set uniform occupational safety standards, while enforcement is carried out by state governments through designated authorities such as the Chief Inspector-cum-Facilitator, who can initiate penal action in case of violations.

However, the government clarified that data on penalties, prosecutions, and closure orders is not maintained centrally, making it difficult to assess the extent of enforcement.

# Recent police crackdowns reveal large-scale rackets

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

popular brands. In several raids conducted across different parts of the city, police seized larger quantities of fake cigarette packets, along with packaging materials designed to closely mimic original products.

Police officials stated that fake cigarettes are sold at lower prices compared to genuine ones, making them attractive to price-sensitive buyers. However, authorities have warned that these products pose serious health risks, as they are manufactured without any regulatory oversight and may contain harmful or unknown substances.

DCP G K Mithun Kumar (north east) explained,"These counterfeit cigarettes are smuggled through various routes, but air travel remains a preferred mode due to their light weight and ease of transport. They are often manufactured in regions such as Africa and packaged to resemble well-known brands. Carriers then pose as regular passengers to move them into the country. Based on intelligence inputs, those involved in the racket are estimated to earn profits of around 20 to 30%."

In a recent complaint filed at the BIAL Police Station, an IPR Service Company alleged the circulation of counterfeit ITC Limited cigarettes across Karnataka. The complainant, an authorised distributor of ITC products, informed police that fake cigarettes resembling ITC brands were being smuggled into India from Cambodia. The consignment reportedly arrived on a flight on March 12, 2026, via Kempegowda International Airport.

Similarly, in February, a complaint was filed by a field executive officer of ITC Ltd. alleging large-scale smuggling and sale of counterfeit cigarettes originating from Cambodia.

According to Dr Priyamvada Sharma, NIMHANS, counterfeit cigarettes do not undergo any quality checks and may contain toxic additives.

"Legally manufactured cigarettes are subject to strict quality and safety regulations. Counterfeit tobacco products, however, are made using unregulated and hazardous ingredients, often in unhygienic conditions," she said.

Dr Sharma noted that there are guidelines mandating the disclosure of nicotine content, health warnings, and other details on cigarette packaging. Additionally, designated laboratories are authorised to test and verify the authenticity and compliance of tobacco products under existing regulations.

"Only through laboratory testing can we determine whether a cigarette is spiked with other ingredients, whether it contains substances like weed, the actual nicotine content, or added flavours. It is only after such analysis that the real health risks become clear.

Fake or counterfeit cigarettes often contain alarmingly high levels of toxins, far exceeding those in standard tobacco, which can lead to accelerated lung damage, increased risk of cancer, respiratory diseases, and added strain on the heart."

She said that many consumers purchase single sticks rather than full packets, making it difficult to identify whether a cigarette is genuine or counterfeit. "Even if tobacco products are restricted, industries may shift to selling nicotine in other forms, experimenting with alternative substances, thereby creating gaps in enforcement," she added.


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**I,** formerly known as Srikanth, son of Veerabhadraiah, residing at Nitesh Caesars Palace, C803 kanakpura main road,Opp KSIT, Vajarahalli,Bangalore 560109, do hereby declare that I have changed my name to Srikanth Veerabhadraiah. Henceforth, I shall be known as Srikanth Veerabhadraiah for all purposes.

**I,** Tejaswi Sagar Sreenivasa Murthy S/o Sreenivasa Murthy K G R/o #97,Sri Sai Krupa,5th Main, Shankarnagar, Nandini Layout, B'luru 560096 have changed my name to Tejaswi Sagar for all purposes.

**I,SHOUKATH** Hayath R/o. No-46, Slaughter House,B street, Broadway road, shivajinagar, B'luru 560051 have changed my name to Shoukath Hayath.P for all purposes.

**I,** CLEMENT SAMUVEL RAJULA RAJAMANI, residing at #19, Thimmai Gowda Layout, Kothanur, Bangalore – 560077, have changed my name to CLEMENT SAMUEL.

**GALLERIA**

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ
ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನ
ಸರಕಾರದ ಅಂಗೀಕೃತ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್, ವಿವಿಧ
ಕೋರ್ಸುಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲು ಸುವರ್ಣಾವಕಾಶ
ಶಾಲೆ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾತರಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ
**ಟೀಚರ್ಸ್ ಟ್ರೈನಿಂಗ್ ಕೋರ್ಸ್**
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### Superb batting by Bengaluru sets up tough task, then bowlers make quick work of CSK line-up

# RCB's blazing challenge makes Chennai fall like house of cards

On a day when defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) put up a massive 250/3, the highest total of IPL 2026, against five-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday, CSK batters faltered big time. Other than Sarfaraz Khan, no batter could rake up runs, leaving CSK way behind in the chase. Jacob Duffy and Krunal Pandya scored wickets for RCB, leaving the opponents in dire straits even as just half of the game was over. For Bengaluru fans, this display proved to be mind-blowing as their team shone in both departments.

**1. Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Jacob Duffy and teammates celebrate the wicket of Chennai Super Kings' skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad; 2. Royal Challengers Bengaluru's captain Rajat Patidar, left, and Devdutt Padikkal greet each other between the wickets; 3. Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Tim David celebrates his half century**

**RCB** 250/3 (20)
**CSK** 207 (19.4)

## Highest score

Riding on blazing knocks from Tim David, Devdutt Padikkal and skipper Rajat Patidar, defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru posted 250/3 in their 20 overs.

On a pitch which eased out as the game progressed, an unbroken 99-run stand off just 35 balls between David, who hit 70 not out off just 25 balls and Patidar, who smashed 48 not out off only 19 deliveries, was the key to RCB touching 250-mark and set CSK an uphill mountain to climb.

Before the duo came in to unleash carnage on CSK, Padikkal was rock-solid in hitting 50 off 29 balls – his second consecutive fifty of the season. After clobbering Noor Ahmad for three consecutive sixes, David cut loose in the penultimate over by smashing Jamie Overton for four sixes and a four to reach his second IPL half-century in 21 balls. His power-hitting had even got Virat Kohli to rise from his seat in the RCB dugout.

RCB began cautiously after being put into batting first, with Phil Salt and Virat Kohli negotiating early swing from Khaleel Ahmed and Matt Henry. Kohli broke the shackles in the fourth over, striking Henry for a six and two boundaries, but fell soon after for 28 off 18 balls, caught by Shivam Dube, who had shelled an earlier chance, off Anshul Kamboj.

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Salt, who had struggled early, found rhythm with pulls and slog-sweeps to race to 46 off 30 before Dube dismissed him in the 11th over.

Padikkal, dropped once by Ruturaj Gaikwad at cover, shifted gears in the middle overs. He cracked three fours and two sixes off Dube and Henry to bring up his second successive half-century, raising his bat to the noisy and cheerful Chinnaswamy crowd. His innings ended at 50 off 29 balls, bowled by Jamie Overton while trying to play a lap shot in the 15th over.

From 151/3 in 14.1 overs, Patidar and David launched a stunning counterattack, leaving many in awe of it. Patidar carved Khaleel for two sixes and a four, while David went after Noor Ahmad, smashing three consecutive sixes – twice over deep mid-wicket and once over long-off - in the 17th over.

Kamboj thought he had yorked David, but an overstep turned it into a free hit, which David dispatched for another maximum. Overton bore the brunt in the 19th over, conceding 30 runs as David hammered four sixes and a four to reach his half-century in 21 balls – with one of his towering hits going outside the stadium – as 97 runs came off the last five overs. **–IANS**

# Rishabh Pant's 68 guides LSG to five-wicket win over SRH

Lucknow Super Giants' (LSG) captain Rishabh Pant guided the team home against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season clash on Sunday in Hyderabad. LSG defeated SRH by five wickets to claim their first win of this IPL season.

Pant scored an unbeaten 68-run knock off 50 balls to guide his team over the line, chasing a 157-run target.

Chasing 157, LSG faced an early setback when Eshan Malinga (1/30 in 4 overs) dismissed Mitchell Marsh (14). However, Aiden Markram took control of the Powerplay, smashing 45 off 27 balls to keep the required rate under control.

**SRH** 156/9 (20)
**LSG** 160/5 (19.5)

Despite Markram falling to Shivang Kumar (1/30 in 4 overs) and a middle-order wobble that saw Ayush Badoni (12) stumped and Nicholas Pooran (1) run out, Rishabh Pant remained the steady hand. The LSG skipper played a captain's knock, scoring an unbeaten 68* off 50 balls.

The match headed for a tense conclusion as SRH's Harsh Dubey (2/18 in 4 overs) struck late to remove Abdul Samad (16), leaving LSG needing 13 runs from the final two overs. Pant's composure proved decisive as he guided his team across the line on the fifth ball of the 19th over.

With a win, LSG now sit at seventh in the IPL 2026 points table with two points in three matches. SRH, on the other hand, sit fifth, also with two points in three matches.

Earlier in the match, Nitish Kumar Reddy and Heinrich Klaasen carried out a rescue act for Sunrisers Hyderabad after LSG bowlers, led by Mohammed Shami, reduced the home team to 29/4 in 8 overs.

Reddy (56 off 33 balls) and Klaasen (62 off 41) helped SRH to 156/9 in 20 overs.

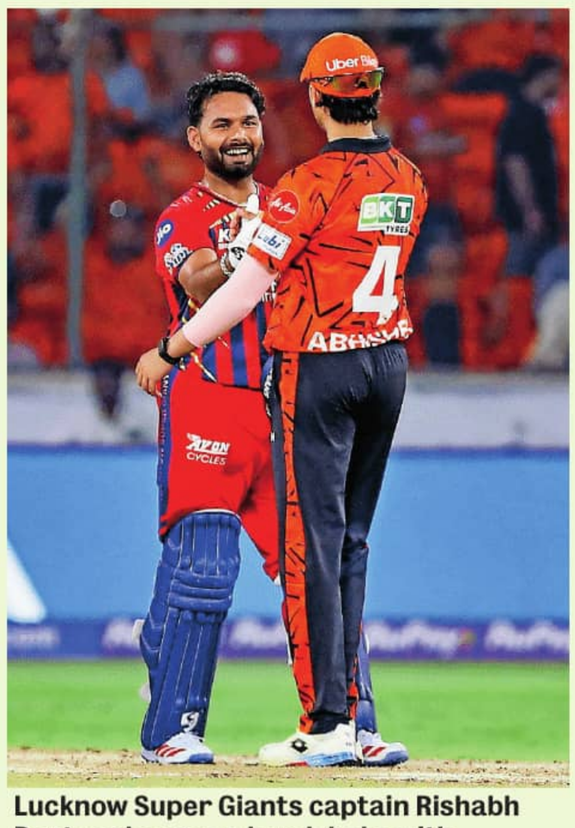
After winning the toss and opting to bowl first, LSG bowlers, led by a clinical Shami (2/9 in 4 overs), dismantled the SRH top order in a frantic opening spell. LSG captain Rishabh Pant's decision to bowl first paid immediate dividends as Shami struck in the very first over, dismissing the dangerous Abhishek Sharma for a two-ball duck.

The misery continued for the home side as Travis Head (7) fell shortly after, followed by stand-in captain Ishan Kishan (1), who was cleaned up by a beauty from Prince Yadav (2/34 in 4 overs). By the end of the Powerplay, SRH were reeling at 22/3, which soon became 26/4 when Liam Livingstone (14) was brilliantly caught by a diving Rishabh Pant off the bowling of Digvesh Rathi (1/46 in 4 overs).

With the all-out attack philosophy of SRH backfiring, it was left to local boy Nitish Kumar Reddy and the South African hard-hitter Heinrich Klaasen to rebuild the innings. The duo shared a vital 116-run partnership that dragged SRH from the brink of a double-digit total to a competitive score.

Nitish Reddy was the aggressor, smashing 56 runs off 33 balls, including five sixes. At the other end, Klaasen played a calculated yet powerful knock of 62 from 41 balls, finding the boundary five times and hitting two sixes.

Just as SRH looked set for a late-overs flourish, LSG's bowling unit struck back. Manimaran Siddharth (1/29 in 4 overs) broke the match-defining stand by dismissing Reddy, and the momentum shifted once again. Heinrich Klaasen fell shortly after, and the SRH lower order struggled to find the boundary against the disciplined death bowling of Avesh Khan (2/36 in 4 overs) and Prince Yadav as the Hyderabad-based franchise ultimately finished on 156/9. **–ANI**



**Lucknow Super Giants captain Rishabh Pant exchanges a handshake with Sunrisers Hyderabad's Abhishek Sharma after Lucknow Super Giants won by five wickets**

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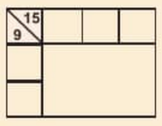
## SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$\sqrt{(x / 10000)} = \sqrt{(0.13 / 100)}$

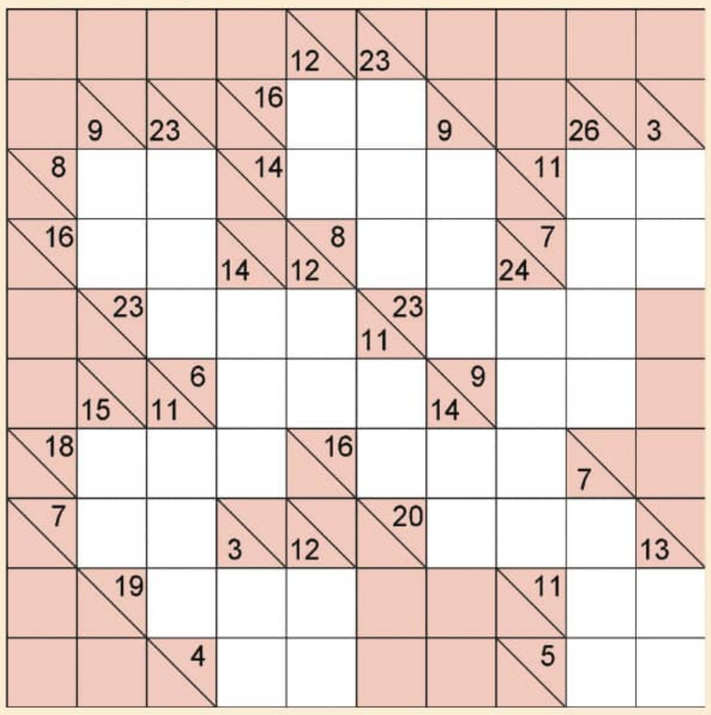
x=?

## Kakuro

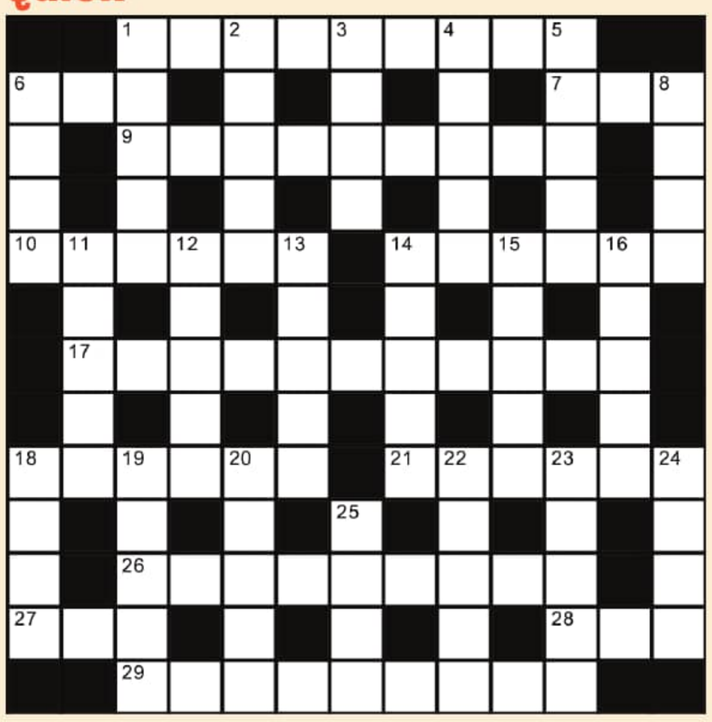
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Rice noodle delicacy of Karnataka (4,5)
6 Girl's pronoun (3)
7 Albanian coin (3)
9 Describe on paper? (5,4)
10 Journey (6)
14 Hollywood's ___ Stone (6)
17 Thrill (5,6)
18 Extreme (6)
21 Natural well (6)
26 Shillong's state (9)
27 Place to soak (3)
28 __ ___ The Walrus: The Beatles hit (1,2)
29 A framework extended outboard from the side of a boat (9)

**DOWN**

1 Very recently (5)
2 Being in debt (5)
3 Quarry (4)
4 Pledge of fidelity (5)
5 Relating to a forearm bone (5)
6 Ex-Opening batsman __ Sundar Das (4)
8 Sharp and eager (4)
11 Beginning (5)
12 Spanish friend (5)
13 Vote into office (5)
14 Sea vessels (5)
15 Wrath, ire or fury (5)
16 Concert hall (5)
18 Single entity (4)
19 Latin American dance (5)
20 Faculty of vision (5)
22 A minor car crash (colloquial) (5)
23 Not firm or fixed; hearsay (2,3)
24 Dejected (4)
25 Landlocked African country (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: H EQUALS T**

HXL BLJS HBJDLNV WG HXL CWWB KO HXL CWTLBHV WG HXLKB JOCKBJHKWMO.

## Linemaro

Are your parents artists? 'Cos they created a masterpiece

## Mindchow

A man is like a fraction whose numerator is what he is and whose denominator is what he thinks of himself. The larger the denominator the smaller the fraction

## Joke of the day

Anytime four New Yorkers get into a cab together without arguing, a bank robbery has just taken place

## Loop

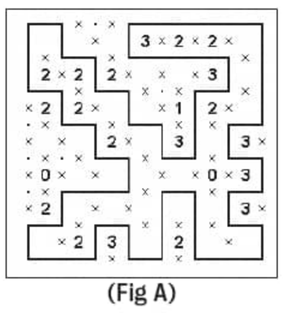
**Rules**

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

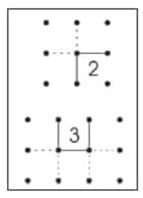
**How to begin:**

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

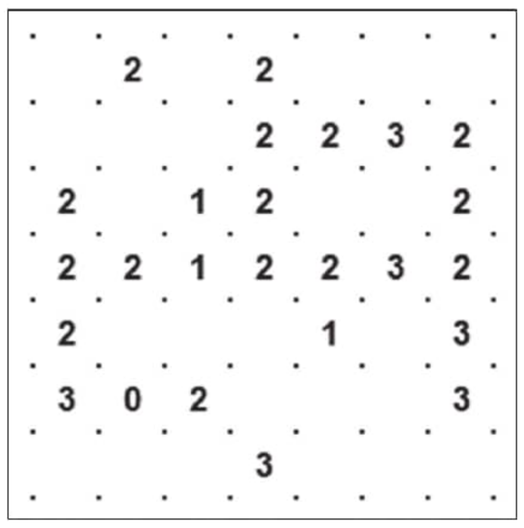
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



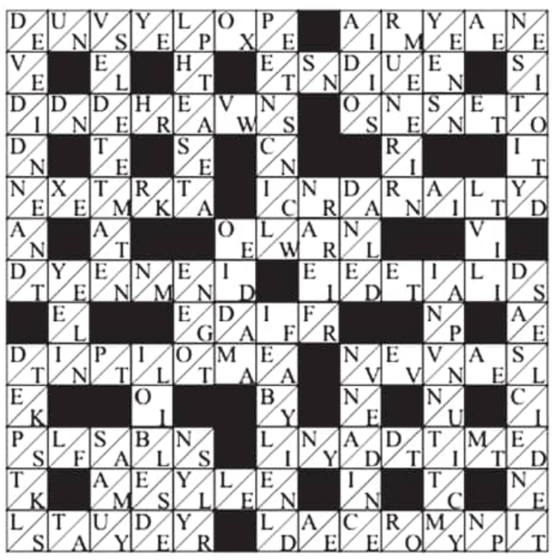
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



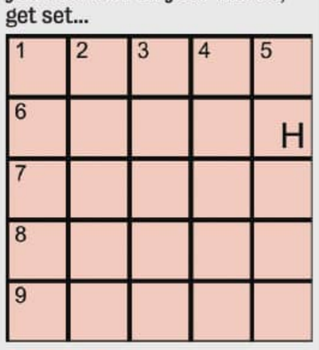
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



**ACROSS**

1 Sos Dr; 6 Throw; 7 Owned; 8 Medea; 9 Boars

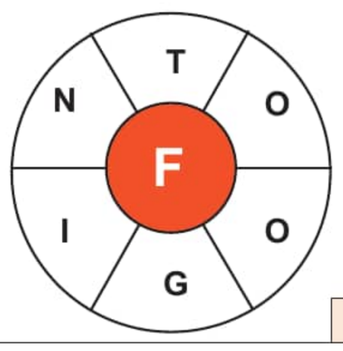
**DOWN**

1 Bedew; 2 Donor; 3 Or red; 4 Atoms; 5 Swash

## Mensapuzzle

Which number is needed to complete the third grid?

## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**03** Average; **04** Good; **05** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | | | | 4 | | | | 9 |
| | 3 | 6 | 1 | | 8 | 4 | 5 | |
| | | | 2 | | 7 | | | |
| 6 | 4 | | | | | | 7 | 1 |
| | | | 5 | | 3 | | | |
| 3 | 7 | | | | | | 2 | 5 |
| | | | 7 | | 1 | | | |
| | 2 | 7 | 9 | | 6 | 5 | 1 | |
| 5 | | | | 8 | | | | 3 |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 2

5 9 9 7

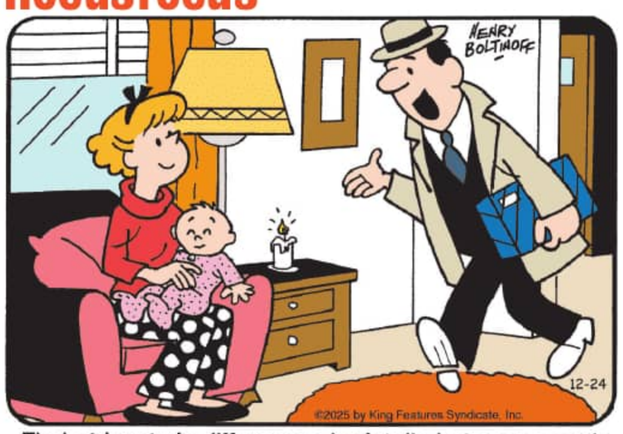
**Medium** = 17

2 3 6 2

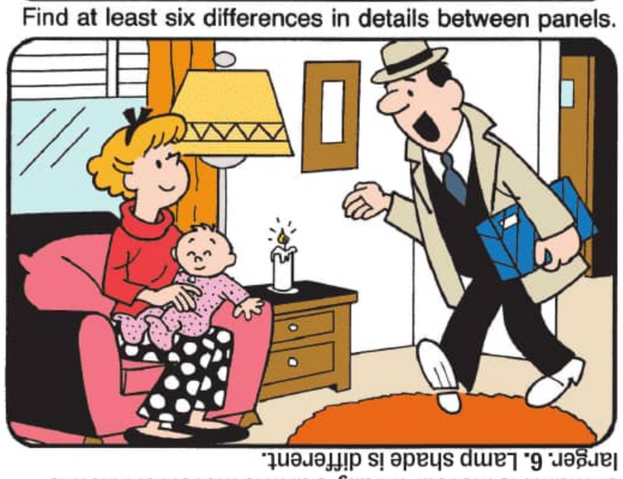
**Hard** = 16

2 7 7 3

## Hocusfocus




Find at least six differences in details between panels.



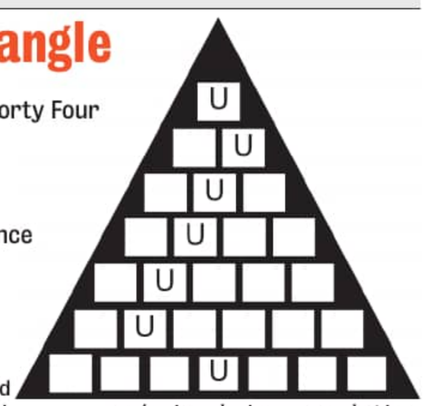
**Differences:** 1. Leg is moved. 2. Candle is taller. 3. Thumb is moved. 4. Baby's arm is moved. 5. Pillow is larger. 6. Lamp shade is different.

## Riddler

A palindrome is a word or phrase that reads the same, if it's turned back-to-front. Try to identify palindromic words from the following clues. Good luck! 1. Music pieces for individuals 2. Grass that grows on beaches 3. A musical note 4. Doctrine

## Alpha triangle

1 Last vowel
2 Atomic number Forty Four
3 Be sorry
4 Certain
5 Tricks
6 Coercion
7 Told with confidence




Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

# COMICS

## Popeye

YER DIAMONDS ARE NOTHIN' BUT BUSTID SODA-POP BOTTLES!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!
THE LADY THAT SOLD THEM TO ME SAID THEY WERE PART OF CLEOPATRA'S JEWELS!
CLEOPATRA NEVER DRANK SODA POP!!
OLIVE, YOU HAS BEEN CONNED BY THE BLASTID WATER-FRONT MOLL!
7-4
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popeye.com

## Bizarrotrip

©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Or you could just admit that the hunt wasn't successful.
Wayno & Piraro
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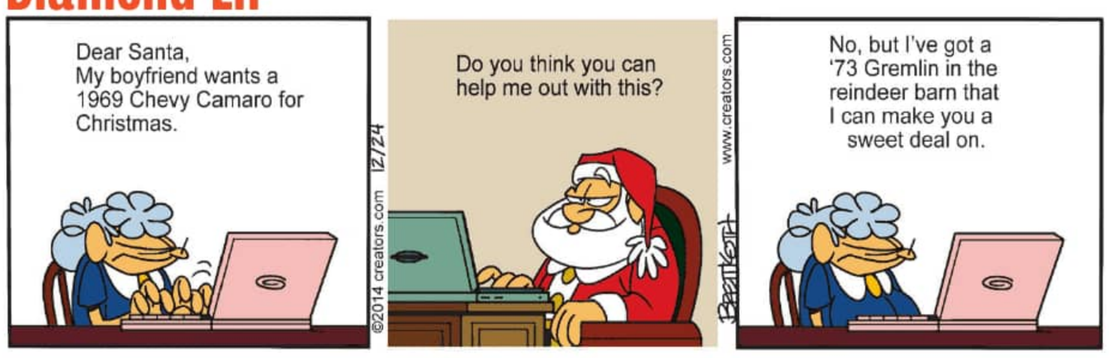
## Diamond Lil


Dear Santa,
My boyfriend wants a 1969 Chevy Camaro for Christmas.
Do you think you can help me out with this?
No, but I've got a '73 Gremlin in the reindeer barn that I can make you a sweet deal on.
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www.creators.com

## Hart of the city

HEY, CAN YOU STAY AFTER SCHOOL TODAY? TO HELP ME WITH HOMEWORK?
YOU'VE GOT THE BEST GRADES OF ANYONE I KNOW. WHAT COULD I HELP YOU WITH?
DON'T SCREW THIS UP, KAT.
H-HANDWRITING?
SURE!
WHEW!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

## Crankshaft

## Mutts

# WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

## If it's your birthday today

A meaningful year begins today filled with thoughtful progress and quiet victories. Travel linked to learning or career development broadens your perspective. Romance grows deeper through patience, honesty, and shared dreams. Finances stabilize as smart planning pays off. Domestic life feels nurturing, with small moments bringing peace. Walk confidently toward new goals knowing persistence, curiosity, and kindness will guide you.

### Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Romance brings promising energy today, Aries. The passion you've been hoping for may finally appear. Someone entering your life carries sincere intentions, so remain open to connection and allow genuine feelings to unfold naturally.

### Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Your thoughts shape your motivation today, Taurus. Spend time meditating and inviting positivity into your mindset. Stop focusing on small milestones and instead envision larger goals that inspire you to keep moving forward.

### Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Today brings many responsibilities and opportunities, Gemini. Work, relationships, and daily tasks may all demand attention. Stay focused and trust your abilities. Quiet reflection will help you clarify your goals and strengthen confidence.

### Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Emotional strength supports you today, Cancer. If something has been weighing on your heart, relief and clarity arrive. Use this renewed confidence to support loved ones and remind yourself of your inner resilience.

### Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Your playful energy shines brightly today, Leo. A cheerful mood attracts attention and spreads positivity around you. Enjoy social moments, embrace the spotlight, and allow your uplifting spirit to brighten everyone's day.

### Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Take a slower pace today, Virgo. Lingering stress may leave you feeling unsettled. Instead of pushing forward, allow yourself time to rest and meditate. Quiet reflection will refresh your mind and restore balance.

### Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Luck appears to favor you today, Libra. Opportunities and outcomes may align with your desires, especially regarding something you've wanted for a long time. Enjoy the positive momentum and celebrate what arrives.

### Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Communication strengthens your relationship today, Scorpio. Your partner may struggle to understand your feelings if they remain unspoken. Express affection through honest words or thoughtful gestures to deepen emotional connection.

### Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

You may feel restless and scattered lately, Sagittarius. Today calls for slowing down and reconnecting with calm. Spend quiet time meditating or resting at home to restore balance and clarity.

### Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Keeping emotions bottled up may feel overwhelming today, Capricorn. Rather than staying silent, open up to someone you trust. Sharing your feelings can ease pressure and bring a sense of emotional peace.

### Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

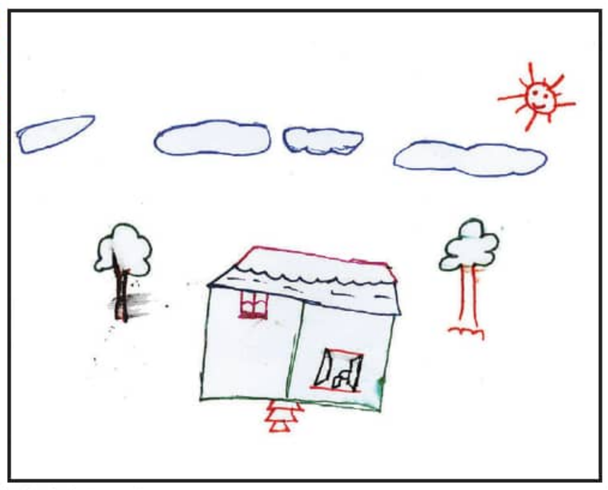
Your mind is overflowing with ideas today, Aquarius. While creativity is strong, not every thought requires immediate action. Take time to reflect quietly and allow meditation to bring clarity and focus.

### Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Good news may arrive unexpectedly today, Pisces. Recent days may have felt uneventful, but a positive development could quickly lift your mood and bring renewed optimism for what lies ahead.

www.sundeepkochar.com

# KIDZONE



Tejashri, Bengaluru

Tharun, Bengalur

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**

X/10000 = 0.13/100
100X = 0.13 × 10000
X = 0.13 × 10000/100
= 0.13 × 100
= 13

**BULL'S EYE**

font, foot, FOOTING, gift, goof

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | T | U | D | Y | ■ | D | E | C | R | Y | P | T | | |
| K | ■ | M | E | L | E | ■ | I | ■ | T | ■ | N | | | |
| S | L | A | B | S | ■ | L | Y | D | D | I | T | E | | |
| E | ■ | O | ■ | B | ■ | E | ■ | U | ■ | I | ■ | | | |
| D | I | P | L | O | M | A | ■ | V | E | N | A | L | | |
| ■ | L | ■ | G | A | F | F | ■ | ■ | N | ■ | A | ■ | | |
| T | E | E | M | E | D | ■ | I | D | E | A | L | S | | |
| N | ■ | T | ■ | E | L | A | N | ■ | I | ■ | T | Y | | |
| E | X | T | R | A | ■ | I | N | A | N | I | T | Y | | |
| D | ■ | E | ■ | S | ■ | C | ■ | I | ■ | T | ■ | | | |
| I | N | D | R | A | W | N | ■ | O | N | S | E | T | | |
| V | ■ | E | ■ | H | ■ | E | N | D | U | E | ■ | I | | |
| E | N | V | E | L | O | P | ■ | A | R | Y | A | N | | |

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | O | R | A | S |
| E | D | E | M | A |
| E | N | D | O | W |
| W | O | R | T | H |
| D | R | O | S | S |

**RIDDLER**

1. Solos,
2. Marram,
3. Mimim,
4. Tenet

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | O | U | T | R | I | G | G | E | R | ■ | | | | |
| T | U | ■ | B | ■ | H | ■ | L | ■ | N | ■ | I | A | M | |
| I | ■ | M | E | G | H | A | L | A | Y | A | ■ | U | | |
| N | ■ | A | ■ | ■ | ■ | M | ■ | R | ■ | N | ■ | L | | |
| U | T | M | O | S | ■ | T | ■ | S | P | R | I | N | G | |
| ■ | E | ■ | G | ■ | C | ■ | P | ■ | E | ■ | O | ■ | | |
| S | P | I | N | E | T | I | N | G | ■ | L | E | ■ | | |
| N | ■ | M | ■ | L | ■ | H | ■ | N | ■ | D | ■ | | | |
| V | O | Y | A | G | E | ■ | S | H | A | R | O | N | | |
| I | ■ | L | ■ | N | ■ | Y | ■ | T | ■ | A | ■ | E | | |
| H | ■ | W | R | I | T | E | D | O | W | N | ■ | E | | |
| S | H | E | ■ | W | ■ | R | ■ | R | ■ | L | E | K | | |
| N | O | O | L | P | U | T | T | U | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**

The real tragedy of the poor is the poverty of their aspirations.

**QUOTE UNCODE**

7. In each circle, multiply the upper left number by 2 and subtract 1 to give the upper right number. Then multiply the original number by 3 and subtract 1 to get the bottom number.

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 9 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| 1 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 5 |
| 4 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 3 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**

U, Ru, Rue, Sure, Ruses, Duress, Assured.

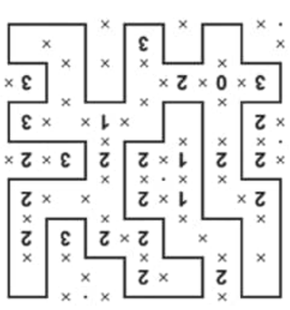
**GO FIGURE**

7 + 9 − 9 − 5 = 2
Easy

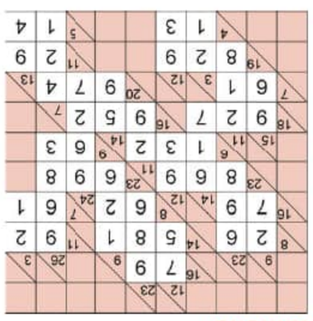
6 × 2 + 2 + 3 = 17
Medium

3 × 7 + 2 − 7 = 16
Hard

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**



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# Romance with a pinch of horror

**FIRST NIGHT WITH DEVVA (KANNADA)**

3.0 RATING ★★★★★

- **DIRECTOR** PVR Swamy
- **ACTORS** Pratham, Sushmitha Gowda Malnad, Nikitha Swamy, Jeevitha Vasishta, Srinivasa Murthy, Harish Raj, Mimicry Gopi, Tukali Santosh, and Pushpa Swamy.
- **Duration** 130 minutes
- **Certification** UA

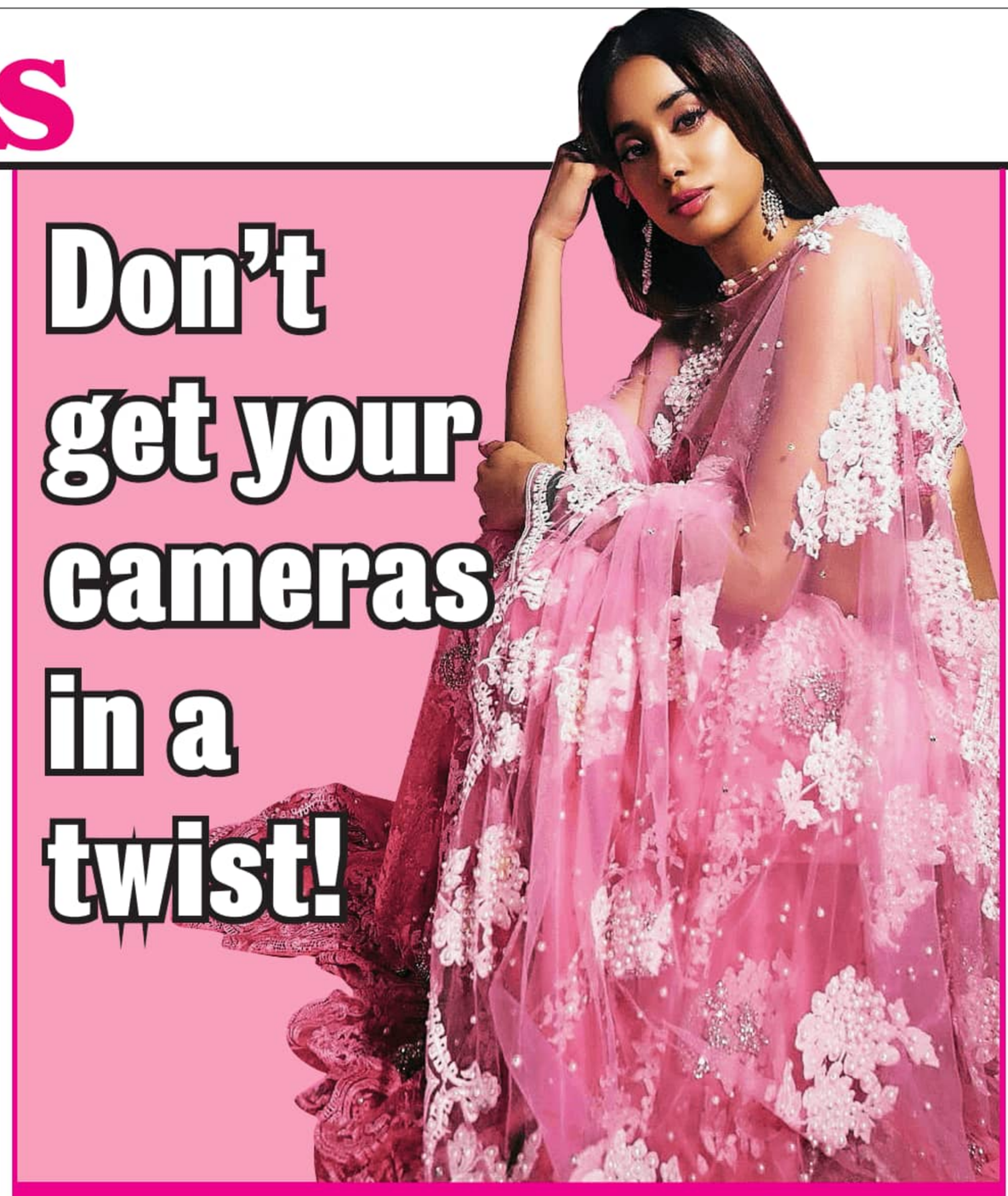
Director PVR Swamy is known for working as a cinematographer for more than 50 Kannada movies apart from handling the megaphone for four Kannada movies. First Night with Devva is Swamy's fifth movie as a director. Pratham has written the script and screenplay for this film. The director has tried to make this movie a mass entertainer by including action, comedy and romance scenes but the comedy scenes, especially those of Mimicry Gopi and Tukali Santosh, look out of date. The surprise of the movie is Harish Raj who plays the villain.

The movie begins with Akash (Pratham) getting married to Bhoomi (Nikitha Swamy) at a simple function. Akash finds Bhoomi behaving peculiarly on their wedding night. He comes to know that his wife is possessed by an evil spirit. He pleads with the ghost to leave Bhoomi. He tells the ghost the story of how he was compelled to marry Bhoomi. At this juncture, the director introduces a flashback to show how Akash and Varsha (Jeevitha Vashishta) fell in love and how Varsha got killed in a road accident and how she requested him to marry her sister Bhoomi.

Then, the evil spirit narrates her story. It is about how Chandra (Sushmita Gowda Malnad) used to work as a secretary at a company and how her boss (Harish Raj) cheated her and how she was raped and murdered by five men. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Akash and Bhoomi.

Pratham, known as a talkative artiste, has tried his best to project himself as a mass hero. Harish Raj, as a scheming and lecherous villain, is convincing. Among the heroines, Jeevitha Vashista is the best. Veteran actors Srinivasa Murthy and Pushpa Swamy provided good support. Music by Adhvik S Varma is okay and the songs are good. It is worth a watch for Pratham's fans. **–Y Maheswara Reddy**

# Don't get your cameras in a twist!



## Janhvi talks to paps about discomfort with deliberately sexualised photography

Janhvi Kapoor has slammed overzealous paparazzi conduct and shared that she recently met them one-on-one to discuss it. She confronted them head-on about the inappropriate ways actresses get photographed at times.

Talking to Raj Shamani, Janhvi said, "I actually had a conversation with the paparazzi a couple of days ago. I met them privately and I was speaking to them about how sometimes they photograph women. And I said this is not good for us. We do not like it. It's invasive and we feel it's not consensual. Even if we've dressed up and gone out a certain way. We are not anticipating that somebody will point the camera at a specific spot and zoom in. But more than us, it reflects badly on you guys. That you all are commodifying a woman's body against her will. How do you respect yourself? That for money, for views, you all are zooming in on a body part? And they seemed pretty receptive and aware."

The actress emphasized that consent is crucial across the board. "I think at every stage it's important to ask yourself, 'What did I consent to?' So for example, I did a song called 'Bheegi saree' where I am in a wet saree and I am dancing pretty sexually. The idea for that was- I wouldn't say to titillate- but it was a sensual song." She clarified it was a deliberate, agreed-upon choice. That said, she firmly opposes any non-consensual sexualisation. "But that's very different from sexualising someone especially without their consent. That in every form I am not okay with, and that does bother me," said Janhvi.

"I have the freedom to wear whatever I want to wear when I step out. But there are angles, there are ways in which it is captured without my knowledge or consent and circulated. And they put some music, some slowmo and some zoom. That's not my consent. Even on movie sets, if a DOP puts a camera on some place that I am not okay with, I should be able to say 'ye nahi chalega' without me seeming unprofessional," she said.

On the work front, Janhvi Kapoor teams up with Ram Charan for the movie 'Peddi', penned and helmed by Buchi Babu Sana. **–ETimes**

# Scenes from a middle-class family

**NAANU KARUNAKARA (KANNADA)**

3.0 RATING ★★★★★

- **DIRECTOR** Aryan Tejas
- **ACTORS** Aryan Tejas, Radha Bhagavati, Master Bhavish Gowda, MK Mutt, Apoorva Shri, and BM Venkatesh.
- **Duration** 136 minutes
- **Certification** U

Naanu Karunakara is proof that director Aryan Tejas has upped his game in his second movie as a director. Tejas als plays the lead in the film that highlights the problems and limitations of middle-class families.

The movie connects to family audiences, especially middle-class parents and children and can transport the audiences back to their childhood, when they would have pestered their parents to buy them toys or new clothes.

The movie begins with Karunakara (Aryan Tejas) riding a motorcycle with his wife Mamata (Radha Bhagavati) and son Appu (Master Bhavish Gowda). Karnakara works as an associate director. Karunakara had a family much before he got a secure job. He has a lot of responsibilities such as paying rent, maintaining his family, paying school fees for his son whose dream is to buy an expensive toy car. He approaches his friends and well-wishers for money to buy the toy car for his son but no one obliges him. Finally, the director gives him money to buy the toy car. You have to watch the movie to know what Karunakara does with that money.

Tejas, as a father who leaves no stone unturned (including doing a painting job for money) to keep his son happy and as an affectionate husband, has acted well. Radha Bhagavathi's performance in a few scenes is a bit over-the-top. Master Bhavish Gowda, as a pestering child as well as a lovable child, is convincing. Kari Subbu, as an empathetic painting contractor, MK Mutt, as a disappointed director, and Apoorva Shri, as a smart and greedy landlady, and BM Venkatesh, as a businessman with human concern, provided good support.

Rohit Sower's music and Vijay Raam Kumar's cinematography are good.

All the characters in this movie are riding motorcycles without helmets though the movie has a dream scene that shows a fatal road accident. But in the very next scene, the family is seen helmetless on the bike.

Family audiences may enjoy this story. **–Y Maheswara Reddy**

# Gigi on Epstein files: 'Never had contact with that disgusting human'

Supermodel Gigi Hadid has publicly addressed her name appearing in recently released documents tied to Jeffrey Epstein, calling the reference "disturbing" and firmly denying any association with him.

The documents, released by the US Department of Justice (DOJ), include a December 2015 email exchange in which Epstein is asked about the professional success of Gigi and her sister, Bella Hadid. In the exchange, a redacted individual questioned how the sisters became successful models and earned significant income.

Epstein responded briefly, dismissing claims that their father financed their careers and attributing their success to following directions, as per E! News.

Hadid responded to the controversy after a social media user criticised her for not speaking out sooner. Replying to the comment, she said the documents "made me sick to my stomach", adding that it was "horrible to read someone you've never met speak about you that way, especially in this context", as quoted by E! News.

She explained that her initial silence was intentional, stating she did not want to detract from the experiences of Epstein's victims. However, she clarified her position after realising that her lack of comment may have been misinterpreted.

"I want to state unequivocally that I have never had any affiliation with that disgusting human being," Hadid wrote, noting she was around 20 or 21 years old at the time the email was written. **–ANI**